Panel on Post-Crisis Growth Performance – Determinants, Effects and Policy Implications

Carmen M. Reinhart

Harvard University

Bank of Canada and European Central Bank Conference Ottawa, June 8-9, 2015

Outline

(i) Delayed recovery and deflationary tendencies

(ii) Factors behind the delayed recovery

(iii) Post crisis investment

• (iv) What is the end-game?

Where are the advanced economies seven years after subprime?

The 2007-2009 Crisis: Severity measures

- It is premature to construct a definitive measure of the severity of the recent crises
- Of the twelve countries experiencing a systemic crisis starting in 2007-2008 (France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Ukraine, UK, and US), only Germany and the US have reached their pre-crisis peak in per capita GDP.

Output, Crises and Recovery

Reinhart and Rogoff (2014) updated with World Economic Outlook, April 2015

100	1 1 .	•	2005 2000
17 Syctomic	hanking	OMICAC	// / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /
12 Systemic	Danking	CHSCS.	$\angle(X,Y,Y) - \angle(X,Y,Y)$
1 2 2 3 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	0 000000	,	

			% change Number of years				
			Peak to	Peak to	Peak to	Severity	Breakeven
	Year	Country	trough	trough	recovery	index	year
1	2008	France	-3.8	2	9	12.8	2016
2	2008	Germany	-5.3	1	3	8.3	2011
3	2008	Greece	-25.8	6	14	39.8	2021??
4	2007	Iceland	-9.9	3	9	18.9	2016
5	2007	Ireland	-12.6	3	11	23.6	2018
6	2008	Italy	-10.8	7	14	24.8	2021??
7	2008	Netherlands	-5.0	5	10	15.0	2018
8	2008	Portugal	-7.4	6	12	19.4	2019
9	2008	Spain	-9.0	6	11	20.0	2018
10	2008	Ukraine	-14.8	1	12	26.8	2020
11	2007	United Kingdom	-5.9	5	8	13.9	2015
12	2007	United States	-4.8	2	6	10.8	2013
	Summary:	Mean	-9.6	3.9	9.9	19.5	
		Median	-8.2	4.0	10.5	19.2	
		Standard deviation	6.1	2.2	3.2	8.6	

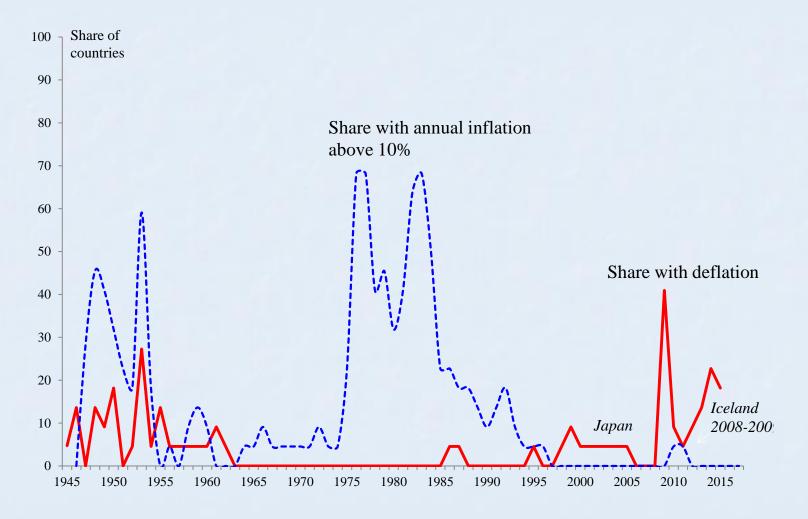
Note: The italics denote any calculations in which IMF estimates for 2015-2020 are used.

Reinhart

5

- The number of years to recover the precrisis peak in per capita GDP in 100 of the worst crises since the 1840s is about 8 years (the median is 6 1/2 years).
- In the 2007-2008 wave of crises, the average may come in closer to 10 years.

The incidence of deflation and high inflation, 22 advanced economies, 1945-2015

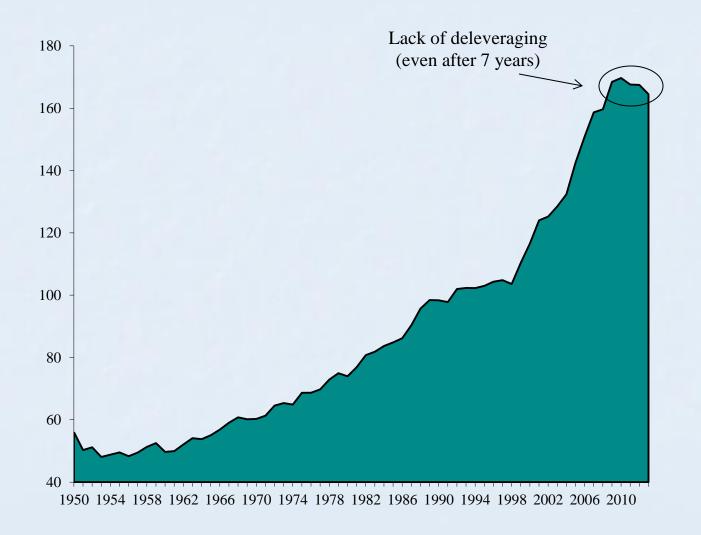


What factors have made this crisis so protracted? What is the end-game?

The list includes:

- the synchronous nature of the crisis,
- the absence of greater exchange rate adjustment,
- austerity,
- the dearth of credit—(external or domestic),
- the lack of deleveraging and write-downs (private or public) almost a decade later.

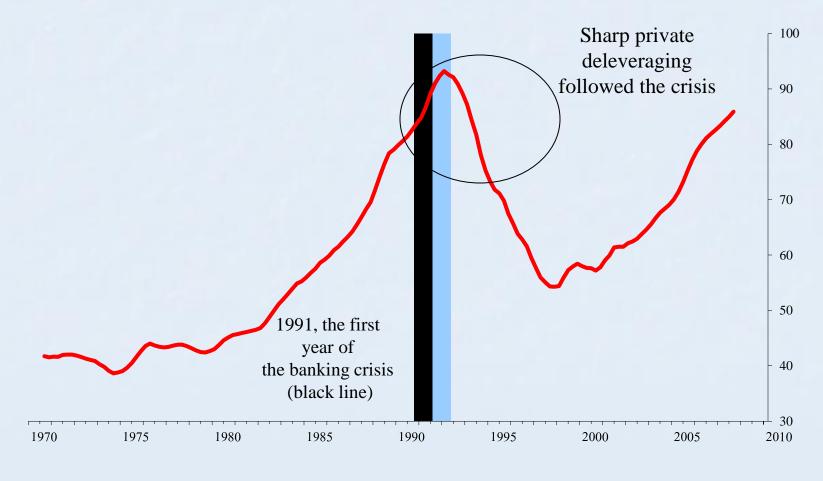
Private Domestic Credit as a Percent of GDP Advanced Economies, 1950-2014



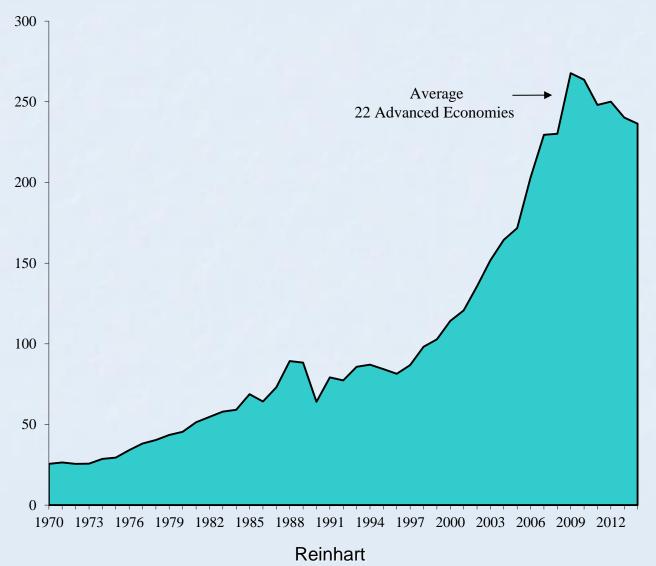
Reinhart

9

The contrast of the Nordic Crises: Finland, domestic credit around the 1991 crisis

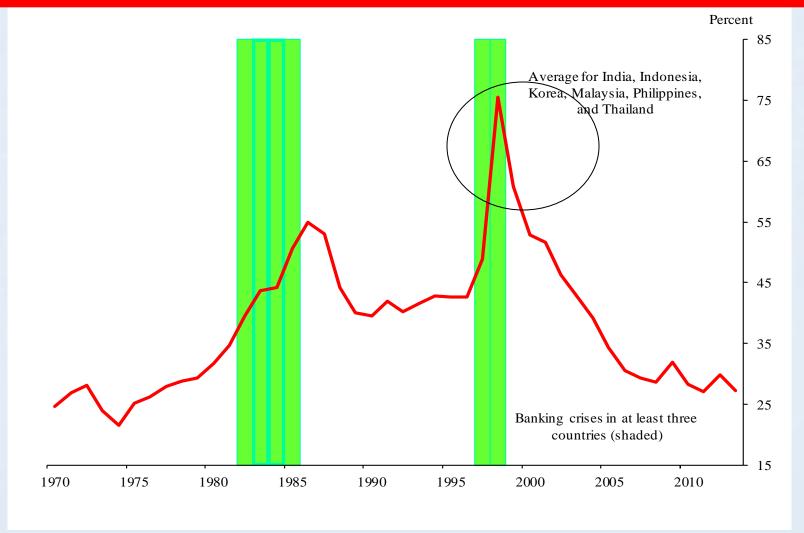


Gross Total (Public plus Private) External Debt as a Percent of GDP: 22 Advanced Economies, 1970-2014

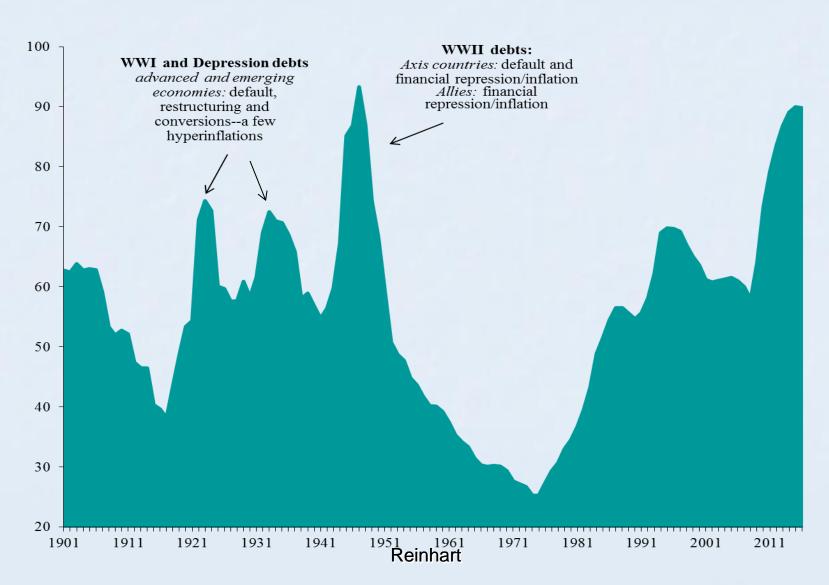


11

The contrast of the Asian Crisis: External Total (Public plus Private) External Debt in Six Asian Economies, 1970-2013



Public debt as a percent of GDP: Advanced Economies: 1900-2015

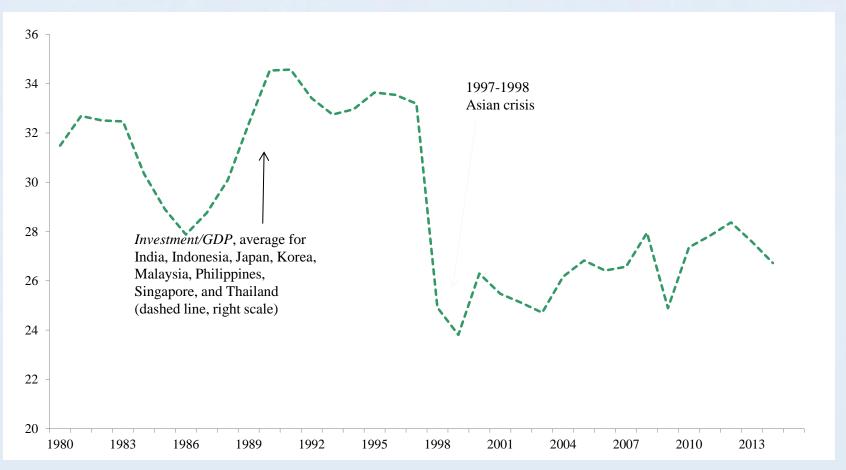


Investment in the shadow of severe crises and BOP Identities...(Reinhart and Tashiro, 2014)

	1987-1997	1998-2012	Difference
Current Account Balance/GDP	-1.1	2.6	3.6*
Total Investment/GDP	33.4	27.1	-6.3*
Real GDP Growth	7.2	4.7	-2.5*
Number of observations	99	135	* Denotes significant at usual levels

 $CA + KA + RA \equiv 0$. Notice that RA < 0 implies an accumulation of reserves by the monetary authority. $CA \equiv S - I$.

The post Asian crisis investment collapse—look familiar?



What is the endgame?

Throughout history, debt/GDP ratios have been reduced by:

- (i) economic growth;
- (ii) fiscal adjustment/austerity;
- (iii) explicit default or restructuring;
- (iv) a sudden surprise burst in inflation; and
- (v) a steady dosage of financial repression that is accompanied by an equally steady dosage of inflation.

Public debt reduction has not always been orthodox --even in advanced economies

Reinhart, Reinhart and Rogoff (2015)

Factors Behind Debt Reversals:

Fiscal Adjustment, Restructuring, Inflation, Growth, and Real Interest Rates

	Growth	Primary	Real	Inflation	Default or
		balance	rates		restructure
	> median	> median	< median	> median	
Total sample, 70 episodes					
Number of episodes	38	41	41	41	16
Share	0.54	0.61	0.59	0.59	0.23
Post-war cases, 36 episodes	S				
Number of episodes	21	16	30	30	9
Share	0.58	0.48	0.86	0.83	0.25
Peacetime, 34 episodes					
Number of episodes	17	25	11	11	7
Share	0.50	0.74	0.32	0.32	0.21

Memorandum items:

Share of debt reduction episodes associated with deflation

Total 0.07

War <u>0.11</u>

Peace 0.03

Real T-bill Rates Frequency Distributions: 22 Advanced Economies, 1945-2015 (Reinhart and Sbrancia, 2015 update)

